

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated December 1, 2005, Claims 1 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 2-12 and 14-23 were not specifically addressed as they depended from rejected independent claims.

As described below, applicant has amended Claims 1 and 13 to address the § 112 concerns raised in the Office Action, and believe that all claims are now in condition of allowance.

Claim 1

The Office Action rejected Claim 1 for various reasons under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, specifically addressed below. Applicant has amended Claim 1 to address these reasons and place the claim in condition of allowance.

The Office Action asserted that the phrase "obtaining a first request for the provider data" was vague, as it was unclear from whence the first request is obtained. Claim 1 now recites "obtaining a first request for provider data from a requesting party." Support for this amendment, i.e., "from a requesting party," is found in the specification on page 9, lines 13-19.

The Office Action asserted that the recitation "the request," as found on line 6, had insufficient antecedent basis. While applicant believes that the structure of Claim 1 to that point referenced only one "request" and was therefore definite, applicant has amended this portion of Claim 1 to now recite "the **first** request."

The phrase "the provider data," on lines 8 and 13, was rejected as having insufficient antecedent basis. Applicant notes that "provider data" was introduced in the preamble of Claim 1 and, therefore, this phrase possessed the necessary antecedent basis. Nevertheless, in an effort to further prosecution of the claim/application, applicant has amended Claim 1 (line 3) to read "obtaining a first request for **provider data** from a requesting party." With this

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amendment, "provider data" is introduced into the body of Claim 1, which provides antecedent basis for subsequent references.

The Office Action asserted that the phrase "returning the first portion of the provider data" was vague, as being unclear as to where the first portion was returned. Applicant has amended this phrase to read "returning the first portion of the provider data to the requesting party." Support is found on page 12, lines 6-12.

The Office Action also asserted that the phrase "generating a second identifier" was vague, particularly that it was unclear how to generate a second identifier. The specification, page 11, lines 10-16, describes that a hash key identifier is generated, and that generating a hash key/identifier is well known in the art. Also, on page 12, lines 11-23, the specification also describes that a second hash key is generated. Moreover, as found in this portion of the specification, in one embodiment, "the second hash key should be identical to the first." Clearly, from these two sections, the first and second hash keys are also referred to as identifiers, and that one of ordinary skill in the art is aware of generating hash keys. Accordingly, applicant respectfully asserts that the phrase "generating a second identifier" is not vague, but rather well understood in the art.

In light of the above amendments and response, applicant asserts that Claim 1 is in condition of allowance. Applicant requests that the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejections be withdrawn, and the claim allowed.

Claim 13

Similar to Claim 1, the Office Action rejected Claim 13 for various reasons under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, specifically addressed below. Applicant has amended Claim 13 to address these reasons and place the claim in condition of allowance.

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The phrase "the provider data," on lines 5, 7, and 8, was rejected as having insufficient antecedent basis. Applicant notes that "provider data" was introduced in the preamble of Claim 13 and also on line 3, i.e., "at least one content requestor for requesting **provider data**." Therefore, applicant believes that use of this phrase was appropriate. Nevertheless, in an effort to further prosecution of the claim/application, applicant has amended Claim 13 (line 5) to read "a content server in communication with the content requester and operable to provide a first and second portion of provider data to the content requester." With this amendment, "provider data" is introduced as being available to the content server, which provides antecedent basis for subsequent references.

The Office Action asserted that the recitation "the request," as found on line 6, had insufficient antecedent basis. Applicant has amended this portion of Claim 13 to now recite "**first** request."

The Office Action asserted that the recitation "a first identifier," as found on line 8, had insufficient antecedent basis. Applicant has amended this portion of Claim 13 to now recite "returns the first portion of the provider data and stores the second portion of the provider data according to **the first identifier** upon receiving the first request for the provider data from the content requestor."

In light of the above amendments and response, applicant asserts that Claim 13 is in condition of allowance. Applicant requests that the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejections be withdrawn, and the claim allowed.

CONCLUSION

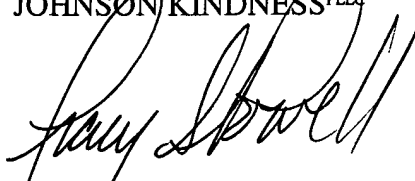
Based on the above-referenced arguments and amendments, applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims in the present application, Claims 1-23, are allowable over the cited

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and applied references. If any questions remain, applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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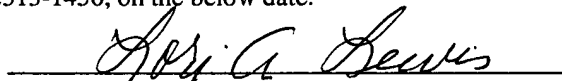
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Date: Dec. 15, 2005



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